

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

With as many people and small businesses that depend on Microsoft and their products on a daily basis, and considering how large an impact the company has on the U.S. economy and balance of trade, I cannot see how the Justice department thought it a good idea to attack Microsoft. It is like shooting ourselves in the foot to attack one of, if not the, top businesses in the world. That is why I was so pleased to hear that you had reached a settlement.

This settlement will mean an end to this issue once and for all. It is harsh enough to satisfy Microsoft's competitors and yet will leave the company in one piece to continue innovating. I only hope that they will respect how much Microsoft is giving up by allowing full access to key components of its software. This will allow anyone to use it to enhance their products to better compete with Microsoft's, without retaliation from Microsoft.

That, without all the other parts of the settlement, should be enough to satisfy Microsoft's critics. Microsoft has simply gone beyond what was expected of them in order to end this case. Let's let them move on and get back to business as usual. In my opinion, this will make a major part of ending our recession.

Sincerely,



Lee & June Johns
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